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## Obituary -- Norman X. Dressel, 1923-1987

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# OBITUARY—NORMAN X. DRESSEL

1923-1987

Norman X. Dressel, a Professor of Accountancy at Georgia State University and the first Director of the Accounting History Research Center, died of a brain tumor on August 30, 1987.

Dr. Dressel was born on a farm in southern Illinois on August 26, 1923. He earned a BS in 1948 and an MS in 1949 both from Washington University (St. Louis) with a major in accounting. In 1958 he was granted the Ph.D from New York University with a major in economics. He also earned a JD degree from Emory University in 1963. For 32 years he taught at Georgia State University and prior to that had taught at Drury College, St. Peter's College (New Jersey), and the University of Chattanooga. He held the CPA and CMA certificates and was active in Atlanta chapters of the Georgia Society of CPA's, the NAA, the IIA, the AGA, and the NABA. Recently, he was a member of the Emerging Issues Task Force of the GASB.

During his many years at Georgia State, Norman worked on almost every facet in the development of a small night school department as it evolved into a full scale school of accountancy with a large, active Ph.D program. He was a "godfather" to most of the Ph.D students and kept in touch with each of them. He was an outstanding teacher who had a genuine interest in his students and over the years those students have held him in high esteem.

During the homily at the memorial service held on September 13, 1987, it was said that Norman "was a man for all seasons—a man for all times." For those who knew this very private person, there were always things to be discovered about

him. While it was known that he had an active CPA practice and taught a CPA review course for over 20 years, not many people were aware that Norman was an accomplished musician who played the piano, harpsicord, and organ. At one time he was the organist and choir director for a Methodist Church in the Atlanta area. "At least annually, Norman collected books, toys and children's clothing, and all types of supplies for infants and took them on his visit..." to the infant care center that he supported in the back hills of Jamaica. While this support of the center brought him joy during his lifetime, he also expressed his love for his fellow human beings by providing for the center after his death.

Norman X. Dressel was a renaissance man, a man for all seasons, who never ceased to wonder and to learn. John Cook, a colleague of Norman's for many years, ended the homily by saying "I believe that Norman would like for us to remember him with the thoughts that are included in Longfellow's 'Psalm of Life.'"

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal.  
'Dust thou are, to dust returnest,'  
Was not spoken of the soul.

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints, that perhaps another  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main  
A Forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again."

Al Roberts